

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin



September 2018
Executive Officer Report

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REGIONAL WATER BOARD EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

COLORADO RIVER BASIN (RB-7)

Salton Sea Regional Program

In late September, the RB-7 SWAMP HABs program received a complaint from a homeowner located in Desert Shores, near the vicinity of the harbor. The complainant cited water quality concerns and visual color changes in the water, stating that pets and children were seen playing by the water. The complainant also cited a lack of signage in the vicinity. In response, staff collected samples for analysis and posted signage at the site. Results are expected to be available by the end of October. Staff maintains an open line of communication with the complainant who expressed gratitude for the Regional Board's timely response. [*Jeff Geraci, Senior Environmental Scientist*]

New River

New River Improvement Project 60% Review Meeting

On September 27, 2018, AEO Frank Gonzalez and Water Resources Control Engineer Adriana Godinez participated in consultant Michael Baker International's 60% Design Review Meeting in Calexico for work associated with the New River Improvement Project Strategic Plan. Their final submittal to the Water Boards is rapidly approaching on October 31, 2018. The consultant is completing the design and environmental documentation for the construction of a trash screen at the International Boundary with Mexico, encasing the river from the International Boundary to the All-American Canal, and a pump-back system to take treated wastewater from the Calexico Wastewater Treatment Plant and discharging it into the New River channel near the International Boundary. [*Adriana Godinez, WRCE*]

Land Disposal - WDR Program

Cannabis Operations in Region 7

On September 2018, the Executive Officer issued two Notices of Applicability of coverage under the State Water Resources Control General Order for cannabis cultivation to cannabis indoor cultivation operations in Region 7. All current operations are in the Coachella Valley or in the Cities of Needles and Calexico. [*Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE, P.E.*]

Pacific Gas & Electric Topock Compressor Station

On September 12, 2018, Executive Officer Paula Rasmussen and Engineering Geologist Scot Stormo toured the overall facilities with PG&E staff and consultants and inspected the regulated Class II surface impoundments. On September 18, 2018, Scot Stormo attended the Topock Leadership Partnership meeting in Havasu, AZ, on behalf of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. [*Scot Stormo, Engineering Geologist*]

Underground Storage Tank (UST) & Site Cleanup Programs (SCP)

USA SUPERSAVE, 2115 Winterhaven Drive, Winterhaven, Imperial County; Recalcitrant/Stalled UST Site

Staff participated in a teleconference on September 12, 2018 with Matthew Cohen of the State Board, Michael Cosson of Redhorse consultants, and the site owner and representatives to clarify the obligations of the Responsible Party (RP), and to discuss funding options for remediating petroleum contaminants to soil and groundwater remaining at the site. It was decided that Redhorse consultants would work with Regional Board staff to assist the RP to obtain State funding for clean-up. [*Theresa Kimsey, ES; Cathy Sanford PG, Engineering Geologist*]

MYER DUNHAM, 650 S. Oleander Road, Palm Springs, Imperial County; Recalcitrant UST Site

Staff participated in a teleconference on September 25, 2018 with Matthew Cohen of the State Board, Michael Cosson of Redhorse consultants, and the site owner and representatives to clarify the obligations of the RP and to discuss funding options to remediate petroleum contaminants to soil and groundwater remaining at the site. The RP is motivated to obtain closure to facilitate sale of the property. The RP's consultant will submit a workplan for site clean-up and apply for State funding. [*Theresa Kimsey, ES; Cathy Sanford PG, Engineering Geologist*]

Former COACHELLA VALLEY MINIMEX, 91201 Avenue 66, Mecca, Riverside County

Staff participated in a Joint Executive Team (JET) teleconference attended by State and Regional Board staff, the property owner and consultant (Andy Whittman, Frey Environmental). The work plan addressing soil and groundwater contamination at the site was discussed. [*Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE; Joan Stormo PG CHG, Senior Engineering Geologist*]

Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) Development

Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management & Stormwater Resource Plan (IRWM/SWR), Public Draft, August 2018

Staff reviewed the August 2018 public draft of the IRWM/SWR Plan for Coachella Valley, and submitted written comments on September 28, 2018 to the Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group. [*Cathy Sanford PG, Engineering Geologist; Joan Stormo PG CHG; Senior Engineering Geologist*]

Department of Defense Program

Joint Execution Plan Performance Reports

Joint Execution Plans (JEPs) are developed on a two-year cycle under a Collaborative Agreement between the Department of Defense (DoD) and State agencies (US Army Corps of Engineers in collaboration with DTSC and the Regional Water Boards). The JEPs require State agencies to complete Annual Progress Reports for work completed by the State agency on DoD projects for that fiscal year. The 2017-2018 JEP Annual Progress Reports

(due September 26, 2018) for RB-7 DoD Facilities were completed on September 21, 2018. [Jose Cortez, PE, WRCE]

El Centro Naval Air Facility

At the beginning of each two-year Joint Execution Plan (JEP) cycle, Regional Board staff complete Resource Estimation Worksheets (REWs), which estimate State resources needed to complete tasks outlined in the JEP. Work tasks for the UST Program at NAF El Centro were not included in the 2018-2020 JEP because the DoD anticipated completing these tasks in the previous (2016-2018) JEP cycle. As a result, the 2018-2020 JEP and REW had to be revised to include on-going UST work. An updated REW was completed and submitted to the State Water Board on September 24, 2018. [Jose Cortez, PE, WRCE]

Office of Emergency Services (OES) Notifications

Thirty-three (33) OES notifications were received in September 2018; including one complaint and thirty-two (32) for minor spills (diesel, paint, adhesive, etc.). All spills were contained, or if released to the ground surface, soils were removed and properly disposed.

Staff are following-up on the complaint (received September 27, 2018), regarding a possible unregulated discharge of gasoline, motor oil and ethylene glycol at an automobile recycling facility in Indio California. [Jose Cortez, PE, WRCE]

NPDES Program

Jurisdictional Streambed Delineation for 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC)

Staff attended a site visit led by Terra-Gen with the Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for Jurisdictional Streambed Delineation for upcoming projects on August 29, 2018. Terra-Gen representatives conducted a tour for staff and other regulators around three sites seeking future WQCs: Desert Hot Springs, Painted Hills, and Coachella Flats Wind Projects. Staff and other regulators surveyed delineation estimates of Waters of the State and Waters of the U.S. completed by LSA for each of the projects. The tour was an opportunity for staff and other regulators to advise Terra-Gen on potential issues in project WQC applications. [Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E., Emma McCorkle, Environmental Scientist]

Annual Report Compliance for Industrial General Permit (IGP) Storm Water

On August 30, 2018, staff issued Notice of Noncompliance letters for failure to comply with Industrial Storm Water General (IGP) Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ. The 2017-2018 Annual Reports were due on July 15, 2018. Dischargers have until September 28, 2018 to submit the 2017-2018 Annual Report. [Maribel Jernegan, Sanitary Engineering Associate]

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission In-Lieu Fee Program and Construct Riparian Habitat Site Visit

The Coachella Valley In-Lieu Fee Program (ILFP) will be used for Compensatory Mitigation for unavoidable impacts to Waters of the U.S. that result from activities authorized under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and section 401 of the CWA water quality

certification. The Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) is currently planning to construct riparian habitat located west of the Coachella Valley Water District's (CVWD) Johnson Street Drain and about 10,000 feet south of where Johnson Street intersects with State Highway 111. The proposed project will be part of ILFP managed by CVCC. On September 18, 2018, CVCC invited Regional Water Board staff, Army Corps of Engineering, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and consultants for a meeting for project discussion and site visit. [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.*]